

701—71.7(421,427A,428,441) Valuation of industrial machinery. Industrial machinery as referred to in Iowa Code section 427A.1(1) “e” shall include all machinery used in manufacturing establishments and shall be assessed as real estate even though such machinery might be assessed as personal property if not used in a manufacturing establishment.

In determining the actual value of industrial machinery assessed as real estate, the assessor shall give consideration to the “Industrial Machinery and Equipment Valuation Guide” issued by the department of revenue and finance and any other relevant data available.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 421.17, 427A.1, 428.4 and 441.21.

701—71.8(428,441) Abstract of assessment. Each city and county assessor shall submit annually to the director of revenue and finance at the times specified in Iowa Code section 441.45 an abstract of assessment for the current year. The assessor shall use the form of abstract prescribed and furnished by the department of revenue and finance, and shall enter on the abstract all information required by the department. However, the department may approve the use of a computer-prepared abstract if the data is essentially the same format as on the form prescribed by the department. The information entered on the abstract of assessment shall be reviewed and considered by the director of revenue and finance in equalizing the valuations of classes of properties.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 428.4 and 441.45.

701—71.9(428,441) Reconciliation report. The assessor’s report of any revaluation required by Iowa Code section 428.4 shall be made on the reconciliation report prescribed and furnished by the department of revenue and finance. The assessor shall enter on the report all information required by the department. The reconciliation report shall be a part of the abstract of assessment required by Iowa Code section 441.45 and shall be reviewed and considered by the director in equalizing valuations of classes of property.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 428.4 and 441.45.

701—71.10(421) Assessment/sales ratio study.

71.10(1) Basic data. Basic data shall be that submitted to the department of revenue and finance by county recorders and city and county assessors on forms prescribed and provided by the department, information furnished by parties to real estate transactions, and information obtained by field investigations made by the department of revenue and finance.

71.10(2) Responsibility of recorders and assessors. County recorders and city and county assessors shall complete the prescribed forms as required by Iowa Code subsection 421.17(6) and rule 701—79.3(428A) in accordance with instructions issued by the department. Assessed values entered on the prescribed form shall be those established as of January 1 of the year in which the sale takes place.

71.10(3) Normal sales. All real estate transfers shall be considered by the department of revenue and finance to be normal sales unless there exists definite information which would indicate the transfer was not an arms-length transaction or is of an excludable nature as provided in Iowa Code section 441.21.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 421.17.

701—71.11(441) Equalization of assessments by class of property. Commencing in 1977 and every two years thereafter, the director of revenue and finance shall order the equalization of the levels of assessment of each class of property as provided in rule 71.12(441) by adding to or deducting from the valuation of each class of property, as reported to the department on the abstract of assessment and reconciliation report which is a part of the abstract, the percentage in each case as may be necessary to bring the level of assessment to its actual value as defined in Iowa Code section 441.21. Valuation adjustments shall be ordered if the director determines that the aggregate valuation of a class of property as reported on the abstract of assessment submitted by the assessor is at least 5 percent above or below the aggregate valuation for that class of property as determined by the director pursuant to rule 71.12(441). Equalization orders of the director shall be restricted to equalizing the aggregate valuations of entire classes of property among the several assessing jurisdictions. All classifications of real estate shall be applied uniformly throughout the state of Iowa.

Equalization percentage adjustments determined for residential realty located outside incorporated areas and not located on agricultural land shall apply to buildings located on agricultural land outside incorporated areas, which are primarily used or intended for human habitation, as defined in subrule 71.1(4).

Equalization percentage adjustments determined for residential realty located within incorporated cities and not located on agricultural land shall apply to buildings located on agricultural land within incorporated cities which are primarily used or intended for human habitation as defined in subrule 71.1(4).

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 441.21, 441.47, 441.48 and 441.49.

701—71.12(441) Determination of aggregate actual values.

71.12(1) Agricultural real estate.

a. Use of income capitalization study. The equalized valuation of agricultural realty shall be based upon its productivity and net earning capacity and shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of this subrule. Data used shall pertain to crops harvested during the five-year period ending with the calendar year in which assessments were last equalized. The equalized valuation of agricultural realty shall be determined for each county as follows:

(1) *Computation of county acres.* This information shall be obtained from "Iowa Agricultural Statistics" published by the Iowa Crop and Livestock Reporting Service.

Total acres in farms: Total acreage used for agricultural purposes.

Corn acres: Sum of corn acres harvested including silage, popcorn and acres planted for sorghum.

Oats and wheat acres: Sum of oats and wheat acres harvested.

Soybean acres: Soybean acres harvested.

Hay acres: All hay acres harvested.

Pasture acres: All pasture acres. Total pasture acres shall be determined by multiplying the total acres in farms reported in "Iowa Agricultural Statistics" by the percentage which total pasture land as reported in the most recent U.S. Census of Agriculture bears to the total acreage in farmland also as reported in the most recent U.S. Census of Agriculture. Determine the amount of tillable and nontillable pasture acres as follows:

1. From the most recent U.S. Census of Agriculture obtain the following:

Cropland used only for pasture and grazing acres _____

Woodland pasture acres

Pasture land and rangeland (other than cropland and woodland pasture) acres _____

Total pasture land (total of above) acres _____

2. Determine the percent that cropland used only for pasture is of the total pasture land _____ %

3. Apply this percentage to the 5-year average total acres of pasture as determined above to determine the pasture acres to be classified as tillable pasture. The remainder of the 5-year average shall be classified as nontillable pasture land.

Determine the 5-year average acres participating in applicable government programs. Obtain data from the U.S. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, including but not limited to acreage devoted to the Payment-In-Kind (PIK), diverted and deficiency programs.

“Other acres”: The difference between the total acreage for land uses listed above and the total of all land in farms. Add the total of the corn, oats, soybeans, hay, tillable and nontillable pasture and diverted acres. Subtract this total from total acres in farms. The residual is classified as other acres.

(2) *Computation of county yields.* This information shall be obtained for each county from “Iowa Agricultural Statistics” published by the Iowa crop and livestock reporting service.

Corn yield (including silage, sorghum and popcorn): Number of bushels of corn harvested for grain per acre.

Oat yield (including wheat): Number of bushels of oats harvested per acre.

Soybean yield: Number of bushels per acre harvested.

Hay yield in tons: Number of tons per acre harvested as reported by the Iowa crop and livestock reporting service.

- (3) *Computation of county gross income.*

Corn: One-half of the 5-year average production multiplied by the 5-year average price received for corn.

Silage, popcorn, and sorghums: One-half of the 5-year average number of acres devoted to the production of silage, popcorn, and sorghum, times the 5-year average production per acre for corn. The amount of production so determined shall be added to the 5-year average production for corn and included in the determination of the gross income for corn.

Soybeans: One-half of the 5-year average production multiplied by the 5-year average price received.

Oats: One-half of the 5-year average production of oats and wheat multiplied by the 5-year average price received.

Price adjustment: For corn, soybeans, and oats, the prices used shall be as provided by the Iowa crop and livestock reporting service and shall be adjusted to reflect any individual county price conditions.

Government programs: Gross income shall be one-half of the 5-year average amount of cash payments or equivalent (such as PIK bushels) including but not limited to diverted, deficiency and PIK programs as reported by the U.S. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Hay: Gross income shall be a cash rent amount determined by multiplying the 5-year average number of acres devoted to hay by the product obtained by multiplying one-fourth of the 5-year average hay yield by the 5-year average price received for hay.

Tillable pasture: Gross income shall be a cash rent amount determined by multiplying the 5-year average number of acres devoted to tillable pasture by the product obtained in "hay" above.

Nontillable pasture: Gross income shall be a cash rent amount determined by multiplying the 5-year average number of acres devoted to nontillable pasture by one-half the product obtained in "hay" above.

Other acres: Income shall be the product of the number of other acres times 17 percent of the net income per acre for all other land uses.

(4) *Computation of county production costs.* The following data and procedures shall be used to determine specific county production costs.

Basic average landlord production costs: Landlord production costs for corn, soybeans, oats, diverted acres, hay, tillable pasture, nontillable pasture, fertilizer costs, and facilities costs shall be obtained for each year from Iowa State University.

Production cost adjustment. The production costs for corn, soybeans, oats, and hay are adjusted for each county by multiplying the difference between the 5-year state average yield per acre and the 5-year county average yield per acre by the 5-year average facilities costs. If a county's yield exceeds the state yield, production costs are increased by this amount. If a county's yield is less than the state yield, production costs are reduced by this amount.

Fertilizer cost adjustment. The adjustment for fertilizer costs is determined as follows: Multiply the difference between the 5-year state average corn yield per acre and the 5-year county average corn yield per acre by the fertilizer cost amount per bushel determined by Iowa State University. This amount is then multiplied times the 5-year county average corn acres determined above.

If a county's 5-year average corn yield is greater than the state 5-year average corn yield, this amount is allowed as an additional expense. If less than the state average, this amount is an expense reduction.

Liability insurance cost adjustment.

The 5-year average per acre cost of obtaining tort liability insurance shall be determined.

(5) *Computation of county net income.* From the total gross income, subtract the total expenses. Divide the resulting total by the total number of acres.

(6) *Computation of dwelling adjustment factor.* The amount determined in (5) above shall be reduced by 10.6 percent.

(7) *Computation of county tax adjustment.* Subtract the 5-year average per acre real estate taxes levied for land and structures including drainage and levee district taxes but excluding those levied against agricultural dwellings. Taxes shall be the tax levied for collection during the 5-year period as reported by county auditors, and reduced by the amount of the agricultural land tax credit.

(8) *Calculate county valuation per acre.* Divide the net income per acre ((7) above) for each county as determined above by the capitalization rate specified in Iowa Code section 441.21. The quotient shall be the actual per acre equalized valuation of agricultural land and structures for the current equalization year.

b. Use of other relevant data. The director may also consider other relevant data, including field investigations conducted by representatives of the department of revenue and finance to determine the level of assessment of agricultural real estate.

c. Determination of value. The aggregate actual value of agricultural real estate in each county shall be determined by multiplying the equalized per acre value by the number of acres of agricultural real estate reported on the abstract of assessment for the current year, adjusted where necessary by the results of any field investigations conducted by the department of revenue and finance and any other relevant data available.

71.12(2) Residential real estate outside and within incorporated cities.

a. Use of assessment/sales ratio study. Basic data shall be that set forth in rule 71.10(421) refined by eliminating any sales determined to be abnormal or by adjusting the sales to eliminate the effects of factors which resulted in the sales having been determined to be abnormal. The basic data used shall be the assessment/sales ratio study conducted for sales taking place during the calendar year immediately preceding the year in which the equalization order is issued. The director may also supplement the assessment/sales ratio study with appraisals made by department of revenue and finance appraisal personnel for the year immediately preceding the year in which the equalization order is issued. The assessment/sales ratio study including relevant appraisals, if any, shall be used to determine the aggregate actual valuation of residential real estate in each assessing jurisdiction. The director of revenue and finance may consider sales and appraisal data for prior years if it is determined the use of the sales and appraisal data for the year immediately preceding the year in which the equalization order is issued is insufficient to determine market value. If such sales and appraisal data for prior years is used, consideration shall be given for any subsequent changes in either assessed value or market value.

Assessors shall provide any known facts or circumstances regarding reported sales transactions and department appraisals which would indicate abnormal or unusual conditions or reporting discrepancies which would necessitate exclusion or adjustment of sales or appraisals from the determination of aggregate actual values. Assessors shall provide those facts within 45 days of receipt from the department of information concerning sales and appraisal data proposed for assessment/sales ratio and equalization purposes.

b. Use of other relevant data. The director may also consider other relevant data, including field investigations conducted by representatives of the department of revenue to determine the level of assessment of residential real estate.

c. Equalization appraisal selection procedures for residential real estate. Residential properties to be appraised by department of revenue and finance personnel for use in supplementing the assessment/sales ratio study shall be selected for each jurisdiction in the following manner:

(1) The department appraiser assigned to the jurisdiction shall determine a systematic random sequence of numbers equal to the number of appraisals required and document the following steps.

1. The department appraiser assigned to the jurisdiction shall compute the interval number by dividing the total number of improved properties in the classification to be sampled by the number of appraisals to be performed.

EXAMPLE: In this example, ten appraisals are needed with a total of 1,397 improved residential units. Dividing 1,397 by 10, 139.7 is arrived at, which is rounded down to 139. This is the interval number.

2. The selection of the first sequence number shall be accomplished by having an available disinterested person randomly select a number from one through the interval number.

EXAMPLE: In this example a number from 1 to 139 is to be selected. The person randomly selected number 20.

3. The department appraiser shall develop a systematic sequence of numbers equal to the number of appraisals required. Starting with the randomly selected number previously picked by the disinterested person, add the interval number to this number and to each resulting number until a systematic sequence of numbers is obtained.

EXAMPLE: In this example ten appraisals are needed, so a sequence of ten numbers must be developed. Starting with number 20 and adding the interval number of 139 to it, each resulting number provides the following systematic sequence: 20, 159, 298, 437, 576, 715, 854, 993, 1,132, 1,271.

(2) Number of improved properties.

County jurisdictions—Put the name of each city or township having improved units in the classification to be sampled into a hat. Draw each one out of the hat and record its name in the order of its draw. Likewise, record the respective number of improved units for each. Then consecutively number all the improved units and document the procedure.

EXAMPLE:

City or Township	Number of Improved Residential Units	Code Numbers
Franklin Twp.	57	1-57
Pleasant View	160	58-217
Jackson Twp.	56	218-273
Johnston	300	274-573
Polk Twp.	110	574-683
Washington Twp.	114	684-797
Maryville	306	798-1103
Camden Twp.	110	1104-1213
Salem	184	1214-1397
Total	1,397	

(3) Determine the location of the improved properties selected for appraisal and document the procedure.

EXAMPLE:

City or Township	Number of Improved Residential Units	Code Numbers	Sequence Number	Entry on Rolls
Franklin Twp.	57	1-57	20	20
Pleasant View	160	58-217	159	102
Jackson Twp.	56	218-273		
Johnston	300	274-573	298,437	25,164
Polk Twp.	110	574-683	576	3
Washington Twp.	114	684-797	715	32
Maryville	306	798-1103	854,993	57,196
Camden Twp.	110	1104-1213	1132	29
Salem	184	1214-1397	1271	58
Total	1,397			

1. The department appraiser shall locate the property to be appraised by finding the relationship between the sequence numbers and the code numbers and identify the property.

EXAMPLE: The first sequence number is 20. Since the improved residential properties in Franklin Township have been assigned code numbers 1 to 57, sequence number 20 is in that location.

To identify this property, examine the Franklin Township assessment roll book and stop at the twentieth improved residential entry.

Document the parcel number, owner’s name, and legal description of this property.

2. The department appraiser shall appraise the property selected unless it is ineligible because of any of the following restrictions:

- Vacant building
- Current year sale
- Partial assessment
- Prior equalization appraisal
- Tax-exempt
- Only one portion of a total property unit (example—a parking lot of a grocery store)
- Value established by court action
- Value is not more than \$5,000
- Building on leased land

3. The department appraiser shall determine a substitute property if the originally selected one is ineligible. In ascending order, select code numbers until an eligible property is found.

EXAMPLE: If code number 20 is ineligible, use code number 21 as a substitute. If code number 21 is ineligible, use code number 22, etc., until an eligible property is found.

If the procedure described in 71.12(2) “c”(3)“3” moves the substitute property to another city or township, select substitute code numbers in descending order until an eligible property is found.

If the procedure described in the previous paragraph moves the substitute property to a preceding city or township, go back to the procedure of 71.12(2) “c”(3)“3” even if it moves the substitute property to a subsequent city or township.

4. Select an alternate property for the originally selected property which also would be eligible. This is necessary because at the time of appraisal the property may be found to be ineligible due to one of the restrictions in 71.12(2) "c"(3)"2." Alternate properties are selected by using the same procedure described in 71.12(2) "c"(3)"3."

5. Follow procedures 71.12(2) "c"(3), items "1" to "4," for each of the other originally selected sequence numbers.

71.12(3) Commercial real estate.

a. *Use of assessment/sales ratio study.* Basic data shall be that set forth in rule 71.10(421), refined by eliminating any sales determined to be abnormal or by adjusting same to eliminate the effects of factors which resulted in the sales having been determined to be abnormal. The basic data used shall be the assessment/sales ratio study conducted for sales taking place during the calendar year immediately preceding the year in which the equalization order is issued. The director may also supplement the assessment/sales ratio study with appraisals made by department of revenue and finance appraisal personnel for the year immediately preceding the year in which the equalization order is issued. The assessment/sales ratio study including relevant appraisals, if any, shall be used to determine the aggregate actual valuation of commercial real estate in each assessing jurisdiction. The director of revenue and finance may consider sales and appraisal data for prior years if it is determined the use of sales and appraisal data for the year immediately preceding the year in which the equalization order is issued is insufficient to determine market value. If such sales and appraisal data for prior years is used, consideration shall be given for any subsequent changes in either assessed value or market value.

b. *Use of other relevant data.* The director may also consider other relevant data, including field investigations conducted by representatives of the department of revenue and finance to determine the level of assessment of commercial real estate. The diverse nature of commercial real estate precludes the use of a countywide or citywide income capitalization study.

Assessors shall provide any known facts or circumstances regarding reported sales transactions and department appraisals which would indicate abnormal or unusual conditions or reporting discrepancies which would necessitate exclusion or adjustment of sales or appraisals from the determination of aggregate actual values. Assessors shall provide those facts within 45 days of receipt from the department of information concerning sales and appraisal data proposed for assessment/sales ratio and equalization purposes.

c. *Equalization appraisal selection procedures for commercial real estate.* Commercial properties to be appraised by department of revenue and finance personnel for use in supplementing the assessment/sales ratio study shall be selected for each jurisdiction in the following manner:

(1) The department appraiser assigned to the jurisdiction shall determine a systematic random sequence of numbers equal to the number of appraisals required and document the following steps.

1. The department appraiser shall compute the interval number by dividing the total number of improved properties in the classification to be sampled by the number of appraisals to be performed.

EXAMPLE: In this example, ten appraisals are needed with a total of 397 improved commercial units. Dividing 397 by 10, 39.7 is arrived at, which is rounded down to 39. This is the interval number.

2. The selection of the first sequence number shall be accomplished by having an available disinterested person randomly select a number from one through the interval number.

EXAMPLE: In this example a number from 1 to 39 is to be selected. The person randomly selected number 2.

3. The department appraiser shall develop a systematic sequence of numbers equal to the number of appraisals required. Starting with the randomly selected number previously picked by the disinterested person, add the interval number to this number and to each resulting number until a systematic sequence of numbers is obtained.

EXAMPLE: In this example ten appraisals are needed, so a sequence of ten numbers must be developed. Starting with number 2 and adding the interval number of 39 to it, each resulting number provides the following systematic sequence: 2, 41, 80, 119, 158, 197, 236, 275, 314, 353.

(2) Number of improved properties.

1. City jurisdictions—Utilizing the assessment book or a computer printout which follows the same order as the assessment book, consecutively number all the improved units and document the procedure.

2. County jurisdictions—Put the name of each city or township having improved units in the classification to be sampled into a hat. Draw each one out of the hat and record its name in the order of its draw. Likewise, record the respective number of improved units for each. Then consecutively number all the improved units and document the procedure.

EXAMPLE:

City or Township	Number of Improved Commercial Units	Code Numbers
Franklin Twp.	4	1-4
Pleasant View	60	5-64
Jackson Twp.	9	65-73
Johnston	100	74-173
Polk Twp.	10	174-183
Washington Twp.	14	184-197
Maryville	106	198-303
Camden Twp.	10	304-313
Salem	84	314-397
Total	397	

(3) The department appraiser shall determine the location of the improved properties selected for appraisal and document the procedure.

EXAMPLE:

City or Township	Number of Improved Commercial Units	Code Numbers	Sequence Number	Entry on Rolls
Franklin Twp.	4	1-4	2	2
Pleasant View	60	5-64	41	37
Jackson Twp.	9	65-73		
Johnston	100	74-173	80,119,158	7,46,85
Polk Twp.	10	174-183		
Washington Twp.	14	184-197	197	14
Maryville	106	198-303	236,275	39,78
Camden Twp.	10	304-313		
Salem	84	314-397	314,353	1,40
Total	397			

1. The department appraiser shall locate the property to be appraised by finding the relationship between the sequence numbers and the code numbers and identify the property.

EXAMPLE: The first sequence number is 2. Since the improved commercial properties in Franklin Township have been assigned code numbers 1 to 4, sequence number 2 is in that location.

To identify this property, examine the Franklin Township assessment roll book and stop at the second improved commercial entry.

The department appraiser shall document the parcel number, owner's name, and legal description of this property.

2. The department appraiser shall appraise the property selected unless it is ineligible because of any of the following restrictions:

Vacant building

Current year sale

Partial assessment

Prior equalization appraisal

Tax-exempt

Only one portion of a total property unit (example—a parking lot of a grocery store)

Value established by court action

Value is not more than \$5,000

Building on leased land

3. The department appraiser shall determine a substitute property if the originally selected one is ineligible. In ascending order, select code numbers until an eligible property is found.

EXAMPLE: If code number 2 is ineligible, use code number 3 as a substitute. If code number 3 is ineligible, use code number 4, etc., until an eligible property is found.

If the procedure described in 71.12(3) "c"(3)"3" moves the substitute property to a city or township, select substitute code numbers in descending order until an eligible property is found.

If the procedure described in the previous paragraph moves the substitute property to a preceding city or township, go back to the procedure of 71.12(3) "c"(3)"3" even if it moves the substitute property to a subsequent city or township.

4. Select an alternate property for the originally selected property which also would be eligible. This is necessary because at the time of appraisal the property may be found to be ineligible due to one of the restrictions in 71.12(3) "c"(3)"2." Alternate properties are selected by using the same procedure described in 71.12(3) "c"(3)"3."

5. Follow procedures 71.12(3) "c"(3), items "1" to "4," for each of the other originally selected sequence numbers.

71.12(4) Industrial real estate. It is not possible to determine the level of assessment of industrial real estate by using accepted equalization methods. The lack of sales data precludes the use of an assessment/sales ratio study, the diverse nature of industrial real estate precludes the use of a countywide or citywide income capitalization study, and the limited number of industrial properties precludes the use of sample appraisals. The level of assessment of industrial real estate can only be determined by the valuation of individual parcels of industrial real estate. Any attempt to equalize industrial valuations by using accepted equalization methods would create an arbitrary result. However, under the circumstances set forth in Iowa Code subsection 421.17(10), the director may correct any errors in such assessments which are brought to the director's attention.

71.12(5) Personal property. Rescinded IAB 10/25/95, effective 11/29/95.

71.12(6) Centrally assessed property. Property assessed by the director of revenue and finance pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 428 and 433 to 438, inclusive, is equalized internally by the director in the making of the assessments. Further, the assessments are equalized with the aggregate valuations of other classes of property as a result of actions taken by the director of revenue and finance pursuant to rule 71.11(441).

71.12(7) Miscellaneous real estate. Since it is not possible to use accepted equalization methods to determine the level of assessment of mineral rights and interstate railroad and toll bridges, these classes of property shall not be subject to equalization by the director of revenue and finance. However, under the circumstances set forth in Iowa Code section 421.17(10), the director may correct any errors in assessments which are brought to the director's attention.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 441.21, 441.47, 441.48 and 441.49.

701—71.13(441) Tentative equalization notices. Prior to the issuance of the final equalization order to each county auditor, a tentative equalization notice providing for proposed percentage adjustments to the aggregate valuations of classes of property as set forth in rule 701—71.12(441) shall be mailed to the county auditor whose valuations are proposed to be adjusted. The tentative equalization notice constitutes the ten days' notice required by Iowa Code section 441.48.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 441.47 and 441.48.

701—71.14(441) Hearings before the director.

71.14(1) Protests. Written or oral protest against the proposed percentage adjustments as set forth in the tentative equalization notice issued by the director of revenue and finance shall be made only on behalf of the affected assessing jurisdiction. The protests shall be made only by officials of the assessing jurisdiction, including, but not limited to, an assessing jurisdiction's city council or board of supervisors, assessor, or city or county attorney. An assessing jurisdiction may submit a written protest in lieu of making an oral presentation before the director, or may submit an oral protest supported by written documentation. Protests against the adjustments in valuation contained in the tentative equalization notices shall be limited to a statement of the error or errors complained of and shall include such facts as might lead to their correction. No other factors shall be considered by the director in reviewing the protests. Protests and hearings on tentative equalization notices before the director are excluded from the provisions of the Iowa Administrative Procedure Act governing contested case proceedings.

71.14(2) Conduct of hearing. The director shall schedule each hearing so as to allow the same amount of time within which each assessing jurisdiction can make its presentation. During the hearing each assessing jurisdiction shall be afforded the opportunity to present evidence relevant to its protest. The director or the director's designated representative shall preside at the hearing which shall be held at the time and place designated by the director or such other time and place as may be mutually agreed upon by the director and the protesting assessing jurisdiction.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 441.48.

701—71.15(441) Final equalization order. After the tentative equalization notice has been issued and an opportunity for a hearing described in rule 71.14(441) has been afforded, the director shall issue a final equalization order by mail to the county auditor. The order shall specify any percentage adjustments in the aggregate valuations of any class of property to be made effective for the county as of January 1 of the year in which the order is issued. The final equalization order shall be issued on or before October 1 unless for good cause it cannot be issued until after October 1. The final equalization order shall be implemented by the county auditor.

An assessing jurisdiction may appeal a final equalization order to the state board of tax review. The protest must be filed or postmarked not later than ten days after the date the final equalization order is issued.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 441.48 and 441.49.

701—71.16(441) Alternative method of implementing equalization orders.

71.16(1) *Application for permission to use an alternative method.* A request by an assessing jurisdiction for permission to use an alternative method of applying the final equalization order must be made in writing to the director of revenue and finance within ten days from the date the county auditor receives the final equalization order. The written request shall include the following information:

a. Facts evidencing the need to use an alternative method of implementing the final equalization order. Such facts shall clearly show that the proposed method is essential to ensure compliance with the provisions of Iowa Code section 441.21.

b. The exact methods to be employed in implementing the requested alternative method for each class of property.

c. The specific method of notifying affected property owners of the valuation changes.

d. Evidence that the alternative method will result in an aggregate property class valuation adjustment equivalent to that prescribed in the director's final equalization order.

The director of revenue and finance shall review each written request for an alternative method and shall notify the assessing jurisdiction of acceptance or rejection of the proposed method by October 15. The assessing jurisdiction shall immediately inform the county auditor of the director's decision. The county auditor shall include a description of any approved alternative method in the required newspaper publication of the final equalization order. In those instances where the approved alternative method includes individual property owner notification, the publication shall not be considered proper notice to the affected property owners.

71.16(2) *Implementation of alternative method.* If an alternative method is approved by the director of revenue and finance, any individual notification of property owners shall be completed by the assessor by not later than October 25.

71.16(3) *Appeal by property owners.* If an alternative method is approved by the director of revenue and finance the special session of the local board of review to hear equalization protests shall be extended to November 30. In such instances, protests may be filed up to and including November 4.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 441.49.

701—71.17(441) Special session of boards of review.

71.17(1) *Grounds for protest.* The only ground for protesting to the local board of review reconvened in special session pursuant to Iowa Code section 441.49 is that the application of the director's final equalization order results in a value greater than that permitted under Iowa Code section 441.21.

71.17(2) *Authority of board of review.* When in special session to hear protests resulting from equalization adjustments, the local board of review shall only act upon protests for those properties for which valuations have been increased as a result of the application of the director of revenue and finance's final equalization order.

The local board of review may adjust valuations of those properties it deems warranted, but under no circumstance shall the adjustment result in a value less than that which existed prior to the application of the director's equalization order. The local board of review shall not adjust the valuation of properties for which no protests have been filed.

71.17(3) *Report of board of review.* In the report to the director of revenue and finance of action taken by the local board of review in special session, the board of review shall report the aggregate valuation adjustments by class of property as well as all other information required by the director of revenue and finance to determine if such actions may have substantially altered the equalization order.

71.17(4) *Meetings of board of review.* If the final equalization order does not increase the valuation of any class of property, the board of review is not required to meet during the special session. If the final equalization order increases the valuation of one or more classes of property but no protests are filed by the times specified in Iowa Code section 441.49, the board of review is not required to meet during the special session.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 421.17(10) and 441.49.

701—71.18(441) Judgment of assessors and local boards of review. Nothing stated in these rules should be construed as prohibiting the exercise of honest judgment, as provided by law, by the assessors and local boards of review in matters pertaining to valuing and assessing of individual properties within their respective jurisdictions.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 441.17 and 441.35.

701—71.19(441) Conference boards.

71.19(1) *Establishment and abolition of office.*

a. As referred to in Iowa Code section 441.1, the term "federal census" includes any special census conducted by the Bureau of the Census of the U.S. Department of Commerce as well as the Bureau's decennial census.

b. Within 60 days of receiving the certified results of a federal census indicating the population of a city having its own assessor has fallen below 10,000, the city council of the city shall repeal the ordinance providing for its own assessor.

c. Whenever the office of city assessor is abolished, all moneys in the assessment expense fund and the special appraiser fund shall be transferred to the appropriate accounts in the county assessor's office, and all equipment and supplies shall be transferred to the county assessor's office. Employees of the city assessor's office may, at the discretion of the county assessor, become employees of the county assessor. However, any deputy assessor of the city may not be appointed a deputy county assessor unless certified as eligible for appointment pursuant to Iowa Code sections 441.5 and 441.10.

71.19(2) *Membership.*

a. County conference boards. A county conference board consists of the county board of supervisors, the mayor of each incorporated city in the county whose property is assessed by the county assessor, and one member of the board of directors of each high school district in the county, provided the member is a resident of the county. Members representing school districts serve one-year terms, and the board of directors each year must notify the clerk of the conference board of its representative on the conference board. A member of the board of directors of a school district may serve on the county conference board even though the member lives in a city having its own assessor (1978 O.A.G. 466).

b. City conference boards. A city conference board consists of the county board of supervisors, the city council, and the entire board of directors of each school district whose property is assessed by the city assessor.

71.19(3) Voting.

a. Votes on matters before a conference board shall be by units as provided in Iowa Code section 441.2. At least two members of each voting unit must be present in order for the unit to cast a vote (1960 O.A.G. 226). In the event the vote of the members of a voting unit ends in a tie, that unit shall not cast a vote on the particular matter before the conference board.

b. If a member of a conference board is absent from a meeting, the member's vote may not be cast by another person, except that a mayor pro tem as provided in Iowa Code section 372.14(3) may vote for the mayor when the mayor is absent from or unable to perform official duties.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 441.2.

701—71.20(441) Board of review.**71.20(1) Membership.**

a. *Occupation of members.* One member of the county board of review must be actively engaged in farming as that member's primary occupation. However, it is not necessary for a board of review to have as a member one licensed real estate broker and one registered architect or person experienced in the building and construction field if the person cannot be located after a good faith effort to do so has been made by the conference board (1966 O.A.G. 416). In determining eligibility for membership on a board of review, a retired person is not considered to be employed in the occupation pursued prior to retirement, unless that person remains in reasonable contact with the former occupation, including some participation in matters associated with that occupation.

b. *Residency of members.* A person must be a resident of the assessor jurisdiction served to qualify for appointment as a member of the board of review. However, a member changing assessing jurisdiction residency after appointment to the board may continue to serve on the board until the member's current term of office expires.

c. *Term of office.* The term of office of members of boards of review shall be for six years and shall be staggered as provided in Iowa Code section 441.31. In the event of the death, resignation, or removal from office of a member of a board of review, the conference board or city council shall appoint a successor to serve the unexpired term of the previous incumbent.

d. *Membership on other boards.* A member of a board of review shall not at the same time serve on either the conference board or the examining board, or be an employee of the assessor's office (1948 O.A.G. 120, 1960 O.A.G. 226).

e. *Number of members.* A conference board or city council may at any time change the composition of a board of review to either three or five members. To reduce membership from five members to three members, the conference board or city council shall not appoint successors to fill the next two vacancies which occur (1970 O.A.G. 342). To increase membership from three members to five members, the conference board or city council shall appoint two additional members whose initial terms shall expire at such times so that no two board members' terms expire at the end of the same year. Also, the conference board or city council may increase the membership of the board of review by an additional two members if it determines that a large number of protests warrant the emergency appointments. If the board of review has ten members, not more than four additional members may be appointed by the conference board. The terms of the emergency members will not exceed two years.

f. *Removal from office.* A member of a board of review may be removed from office by the conference board or city council but only after specific charges have been filed by the conference board or city council.

g. *Appointment of members.* Members of a county board of review shall be appointed by the county conference board. Members of a city board of review shall be appointed by the city conference board in cities with an assessor or by the city council in cities without an assessor. A city without an assessor can only have a board of review if the population of the city is 75,000 or more. A city with a population of more than 125,000 may appoint a city board of review or request the county conference board to appoint a ten-member county board of review.

71.20(2) *Sessions of boards of review.*

a. It is mandatory that a board of review convene on May 1 and adjourn no later than May 31 of each year. However, if either date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the board of review shall convene or adjourn on the following Monday.

b. *Extended session.* If a board of review determines it will be unable to complete its work by May 31, it may request that the director of revenue and finance extend its session up to July 15. The request must be signed by a majority of the membership of the board of review and must contain the reasons the board of review cannot complete its work by May 31. During the extended session, a board of review may perform the same functions as during its regular session unless specifically limited by the director of revenue and finance.

c. *Special session.* If a board of review is reconvened by the director of revenue and finance pursuant to Iowa Code section 421.17, the board of review shall perform those functions specified in the order of the director of revenue and finance and shall perform no other functions.

71.20(3) *Actions initiated by boards of review.*

a. *Internal equalization of assessments.* A board of review in reassessment years as provided in Iowa Code section 428.4 has the power to equalize individual assessments as established by the assessor, but cannot make percentage adjustments in the aggregate valuations of classes of property (1966 O.A.G. 416). In nonreassessment years, a board of review can adjust the valuation of an entire class of property by adjusting all assessment by a uniform percentage. Nothing contained in this rule shall restrict the director from exercising the responsibilities set forth in Iowa Code section 421.17.

b. *Omitted assessments.* A board of review may assess for taxation any property which was not assessed by the assessor, including property which the assessor determines erroneously is not subject to taxation by virtue of enjoying an exempt status (*Talley v. Brown* 146 Iowa 360, 125 N.W. 248(1910)).

c. *Notice to taxpayers.* If the value of any property is increased by a board of review or a board of review assesses property not previously assessed by the assessor, the person to whom the property is assessed shall be notified by regular mail of the board's action. The notification shall state that the taxpayer may protest the action by filing a written protest with the board of review within five days of the date of the notice. After at least five days have passed since notifying the taxpayer, the board of review shall meet to take final action on the matter, including the consideration of any protest filed. However, if the valuations of all properties within a class of property are raised or lowered by a uniform percentage in a nonreassessment year, notice to taxpayers need be provided only by newspaper publication as described in Iowa Code section 441.35.

71.20(4) Appeals to boards of review.

a. A board of review may act only upon written protests which have been filed with the board of review between April 16 and May 5, inclusive. In the event May 5 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, protests filed the following Monday shall be considered to have been timely filed. Protests postmarked by May 5 or the following Monday if May 5 falls on a Saturday or Sunday shall also be considered to have been timely filed. All protests must be in writing and signed by the taxpayer or the taxpayer's authorized agent. A written request for an oral hearing must be made at the time of filing the protest and may be made by checking the appropriate box on the form prescribed by the department of revenue and finance. Protests may be filed for previous years if the taxpayer discovers that a mathematical or clerical error was made in the assessment, provided the taxes have not been fully paid or otherwise legally discharged.

b. Grounds for protest. Taxpayers may protest to a board of review on one or more of the grounds specified in Iowa Code section 441.37. The grounds for protest and procedures for considering protests are as follows:

(1) The assessment is not equitable when compared with those of similar properties in the same assessing district. If this ground is a basis for the protest, the protest must contain the legal descriptions and assessments of the comparable properties. The comparable properties selected by the taxpayer must be located within the same assessing district as the property for which the protest has been filed (*Maytag Co. v. Partridge*, 210 N.W.2d 584 (Iowa 1973)). In considering a protest based upon this ground, the board of review should examine carefully all information used to determine the assessment of the subject property and the comparable properties and determine that those properties are indeed comparable to the subject property. It is the responsibility of the taxpayer to establish that the other properties submitted are comparable to the subject property and that inequalities exist in the assessments (*Chicago & N. W. Ry. Co. v. Iowa State Tax Commission*, 257 Iowa 1359, 137 N.W.2d 246(1965)).

(2) The property is assessed at more than its actual value as defined in Iowa Code section 441.21. If this ground is used, the taxpayer must state both the amount by which the property is overassessed and the amount considered to be the actual value of the property.

(3) The property is not assessable and should be exempt from taxation. If using this ground, taxpayers must state the reasons why it is felt the property is not assessable.

(4) There is an error in the assessment. An error in the assessment would most probably involve erroneous mathematical computations or errors in listing the property. The improper classification of property also constitutes an error in the assessment. If this ground is used, the taxpayer's protest must state the specific error alleged.

A board of review must determine:

1. If an error exists, and
2. How the error might be corrected.

(5) There is fraud in the assessment. If this ground of protest is used, the taxpayer's protest must state the specific fraud alleged, and the board of review must first determine if there is validity to the taxpayer's allegation. If it is determined there is fraud in the assessment, the board of review shall take action to correct the assessment and report the matter to the director of revenue and finance.

(6) There has been a change of value of real estate since the last assessment. The board of review must determine that the value of the property as of January 1 of the current year has changed since January 1 of the previous reassessment year. This is the only ground upon which a protest pertaining to the valuation of a property can be filed in a year in which the assessor has not assessed or reassessed the property pursuant to Iowa Code section 428.4. In a year subsequent to a year in which a property has been assessed or reassessed pursuant to Iowa Code section 428.4, a taxpayer cannot protest to the board of review based upon actions taken in the year in which the property was assessed or reassessed (*James Black Dry Goods Co. v. Board of Review for City of Waterloo*, 260 Iowa 1269, 151 N.W. 2d 534(1967); *Commercial Merchants Nat'l Bank and Trust Co. v. Board of Review of Sioux City*, 229 Iowa 1081, 296 N.W. 203(1941)).

c. Disposition of protests. After reaching a decision on a protest, the board of review shall give the taxpayer written notice of its decision. The notice shall contain the following information:

(1) The valuation and classification of the property as determined by the board of review.

(2) If the protest was based on the ground the property was not assessable, the notice shall state whether the exemption is allowed and the value at which the property would be assessed in the absence of the exemption.

(3) The specific reasons for the board's decision with respect to the protest.

(4) That the board of review's decision may be appealed to the district court within 20 days of the board's adjournment or May 31, whichever date is later. If the adjournment date is known, the date shall be stated on the notice. If the adjournment date is not known, the notice shall state the date will be no earlier than May 31. Written notice of appeal shall be filed with the clerk of district court and notice of the appeal shall be served on the chairperson, presiding officer, or clerk of the board of review.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 441.31 as amended by 1997 Iowa Acts, House File 4, and sections 441.32 to 441.38.

701—71.21(428,441) Assessors.

71.21(1) Conflict of interest. An assessor shall not act as a private appraiser, or as a real estate broker or option agent in the jurisdiction in which serving as assessor (1976 O.A.G. 744).

71.21(2) Listing of property.

a. Forms. Assessors may design and use their own forms in lieu of those prescribed by the department of revenue and finance provided that the forms contain all information contained on the prescribed form, are not substantially different from the prescribed form, and are approved by the director of revenue and finance.

b. Assessment rolls. Assessment rolls must be prepared in duplicate for each property in a reassessment year as defined in Iowa Code section 428.4. However, the copy of the roll does not have to be issued to a taxpayer unless there is a change in the assessment or the taxpayer requests the issuance of the duplicate copy.

c. Whenever a date specified in Iowa Code chapter 441 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the action required to be completed on or before that date shall be considered to have been timely completed if performed on or before the following day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday.

d. Buildings erected or improvements made by a person other than the owner of the land on which they are located are to be assessed to the owner of the buildings or improvements. Unpaid taxes are a lien on the buildings or improvements and not a lien on the land on which they are located.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 428 as amended by 1997 Iowa Acts, House File 266, and Iowa Code chapter 441.

701—71.22 to 71.24 Reserved.

701—71.25(441,443) Omitted assessments.

71.25(1) *Property subject to omitted assessment.*

a. Land and buildings. An omitted assessment can be made only if land or buildings were not listed and assessed by the assessor. The failure to list and assess an entire building is an omission for which an omitted assessment can be made even if the land upon which the building is located has been listed and assessed. See *Okland v. Bilyeu*, 359 N.W.2d 412 (Iowa 1984). However, the failure to consider the value added as a result of an improvement made does not constitute an omission for which an omitted assessment can be made if the building or land to which the improvement was made has been listed and assessed.

b. Previously exempt property. Property which has been erroneously determined to be exempt from taxation may be restored to taxation by the making of an omitted assessment. See *Talley v. Brown*, 146 Iowa 360, 125 N.W. 243 (1910). An omitted assessment is also made to restore to taxation previously exempt property which ceases to be eligible for an exemption.

71.25(2) *Officials authorized to make an omitted assessment.*

a. Local board of review. A local board of review may make an omitted assessment of property during its regular session only if the property was not listed and assessed as of January 1 of the current assessment year. For example, during its regular session which begins May 1, 1986, a local board of review may make an omitted assessment only of property that was not assessed by the assessor as of January 1, 1986. During that session, the board of review could not make an omitted assessment for an assessment year prior to 1986.

b. County auditor and local assessor. The county auditor and local assessor may make an omitted assessment. However, no omitted assessment can be made by the county auditor or local assessor if taxes based on the assessment year in question have been paid or otherwise legally discharged. For example, if a tract of land was listed and assessed and taxes levied against that assessment have been paid or legally discharged, no omitted assessment can be made of a building located upon that tract of land even though the building was not listed and assessed at the time the land was listed and assessed. See *Okland v. Bilyeu*, 359 N.W.2d 412, 417 (Iowa 1984).

c. County treasurer. The county treasurer may make an omitted assessment within two years from the date the tax list which should have contained the assessment should have been delivered to the county treasurer. For example, for the 1999 assessment year, the tax list is to be delivered to the county treasurer on or before June 30, 2000. Thus, the county treasurer may make an omitted assessment for the 1999 assessment year at any time on or before June 30, 2002. The county treasurer may make an omitted assessment of a building even if taxes levied against the land upon which the building is located have been paid or legally discharged. See *Okland v. Bilyeu*, 359 N.W.2d 412, 417 (Iowa 1984). The county treasurer may not make an omitted assessment if the omitted property is no longer owned by the person who owned the property on January 1 of the year the original assessment should have been made.

d. Director of revenue and finance. The director of revenue and finance may make an omitted assessment of any property assessable by the director at any time within two years from the date the assessment should have been made.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 440 and sections 443.6 through 443.15 as amended by 1999 Iowa Acts, chapter 174.

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